

**Royal Allen
Narrator
With comments by Unknown Person**

**Janet Worthington
Interviewer**

**Gary Worthington
Video Photography**

**July 21, 2006
At the Royal Allen Home
John Day, Oregon**

Royal Allen -RA
Janet Worthington -JW
Unknown person -

JW: I would like to start out with your contact with Kam Wah Chung, Doc Hay, and Lung On. How did you know them or what do you know about them.

RA: My dad was pretty good friends with them and the doctor used to come up and give my mom medicine...once in awhile...a couple times I remember. I don't know what it was. Other than that, I used to go down there and buy firecrackers, and he'd give me candy. I think he gave all the kids around candy, Doc Hay.

JW: Could you describe the building where you would go to buy candy?

RA: It was right down in the main part of that...it would be the farthest north part of the building...in the stone part. I never did get in past the counter; he had a counter in there.

JW: Where was the counter? Is that when you came in the door?

RA: When you came in you just went straight back to it. It was on the left hand side, if I remember right. [Looking at photograph]

JW: Here's where you would come in the door.

RA: Yes.

JW: This is the main room.

RA: I think the counter was along in here... I believe... I didn't pay an awful lot of attention to it in those days...and I never was past that anywhere.

JW: Just this area right here?

RA: Yes.

JW: Do you remember any of the furniture that was in this room?

RA: No, I sure don't. I remember there was lots of bottles and herbs around on the walls. There was a little store, as far as I know. That's about all I know about it.

JW: You would go in here to buy firecrackers? Where would the firecrackers be?

RA: I don't know. I think he went around back somewhere and got them.

JW: Oh did he?

RA: I believe, yes.

JW: Then he brought them out and gave them to you?

RA: Yes.

JW: Do you remember how much they cost?

RA: No, I sure don't. It wouldn't have been much, because I didn't have much. [both laughing]

JW: How many did you get at one time? Would you get a long string or a short string.

RA: Oh, three or four packages usually. I think some come in a string about a foot long. I don't remember any real big firecrackers, just the small ones.

JW: You also got candy?

RA: He'd give you candy every time you went around there.

JW: He did? Who's he? Is it Doc Hay?

RA: Doc Hay. He's a pretty nice guy, I thought.

JW: Was he? Could you describe him?

RA: Boy, I can't, except that he wasn't a very big man. Most of the time I think he wore robes...I'm not sure...some kind of robe.

JW: Do you remember what color?

RA: No, I sure don't.

JW: Was it like long and flowing or fitted close to him?

RA: I think it had been fitted, probably...nothing dragging or anything. I really don't remember much about him.

JW: How about Lung On, did you know him?

RA: I didn't know him. I knew he was there. I think I seen him a time or two. I knew he had a car dealership somewhere. Maybe, that was over by then.

JW: What year would this have been? Do you recall?

RA: [speaking to an unknown person] help me.

UP: How old were you then?

RA: I would have been 7 or 8.

UP: About 1940 then 41.

RA: 39 or 40, somewhere around there.

JW: Do you remember seeing other people in the store when you went in?

RA: No, I don't.

JW: You were always pretty much there by yourself when you went to shop?

RA: Yes, I think so. I usually went down in the morning pretty early. I rode my horse down and tied him to the front of the building and went in.

JW: Oh, so there was someplace to tie the horses?

RA: Someplace I did. I don't remember just what, but I remember tying him to the front of the building, somewhere.

JW: Usually, there was no one else in the store early?

RA: I don't recall. Now, there could have been, but I don't recall. I think two of them lived there, didn't they?

JW: I think so, yes. Did you go in different times of the year? Do you remember how the building was heated?

RA: No, I sure don't know how it was heated. I know it wasn't as kept up as nice as it is now.

JW: What do you mean?

RA: Well, there was no lawn around it in those days.

JW: Oh, there wasn't?

RA: The streets were just dirt. It seems like there was something off to the right over that building was. Some kind of another building or something, I'm not sure. It's been a long time ago. My memory isn't that good.

UP: Maybe, you could describe some of the other buildings that were in that area.

RA: The only one I know for sure was over clear across the river and up on the hill, there was a cabin. Probably, eight by ten, ten by twelve, or something like that. My Dad said, there was about ten chinamen that lived in there. I guess they didn't waste space. That was there for years.

JW: It was?

RA: Yes, I don't know whoever tore it down. It was there up about the time they started that housing development there.

JW: Do you remember what year that might have been?

RA: No, I don't.

UP: [unclear] heights has been there 20 years at least.

RA: Oh yes, or longer.

UP: Because, Pollacks were one of the first on to build in there.

RA: Either the Bishops or the Pollacks, I know they didn't disturb that.

UP: No, I was thinking about when the development started.

RA: I couldn't tell you about that. I remember going over there quite a bit later in life and seeing that cabin there. I don't remember any windows, maybe one on the north side, but I'm not sure.

UP: It was nearer thirty years.

RA: Thirty or forty

UP: [unclear]

RA: I was about sixteen...it was there...probably up until I was 20 even.

JW: Do you remember other things that were sold in the store besides the firecrackers and the candy?

RA: No, I don't off hand, but it was probably general merchandise or Chinese.

JW: You mentioned something about Doc Hay's medical practice, that he treated members of your family?

RA: He treated my mom. I don't know what he gave her. I think she hated to take it, but she did. [Laughing]

UP: Was it a medicine that you take or was it a salve that you rub on.

RA: No, you took it.

JW: Something you drank?

RA: Yes, it was several herbs, maybe a lizard or two. [Both laughing]

JW: What kind of illness did your mother have?

RA: Well...She died...they called it hardening of the arteries. I don't know what he was treating her for, I think that.

JW: And how did she respond to the treatment?

RA: I can't remember if it done an awful lot. She got well again for a while, but I don't really know.

JW: You said he came to your house?

RA: Yes, I can't remember how he came. I don't know if weather Lung On brought him, or weather if he walked up there. I just don't know that.

JW: Did he come more than once?

RA: I think a couple of times. I think mom got some medicine from him other times.

JW: Did she go to other doctors, or did she –

RA: Yes, there was a real good doctor here, Dr. Jerry. I'm not sure he was here then; he would have been shortly afterwards. There was a Dr. Phil...Dr. Haight...she went to all of them.

JW: Do you know anything else about his herbs, or the sale of his herbs, or the medicines that he dealt with?

RA: No. I remember he had a lot of herbs.

JW: You saw those when you went in the store?

RA: You could see quite a few of them.

JW: You knew something about the China Town that was here in John Day. How many buildings there were?

RA: I think they was all built right in that area. Like I say, it wasn't like it is now...wasn't grassy.

JW: It was all dirt?

RA: It was all dirt diggings, you know, tailings and everything else.

UP: The dredge had been through there, hadn't it?

RA: I think it had been pretty close to it, anyhow. Faintly, I remember this, this is almost like a dream, but I faintly remember a Chinese funeral.

JW: What was that like?

RA: The only part I seen was the procession—I can't say that right—where they was taking the boys to the cemetery. I think they walked right down the middle of the road, probably thirty or forty of them, carrying the casket on their shoulders. There was somebody else out there, my dad said, throwing up little pieces of paper with holes in it for the devil to go through before he gets to the body.

JW: Did they throw them at the crowds or just threw them generally?

RA: I think the guy was coming along behind the crowd and throwing them out. Could have been in front, I was awful young then.

UP: Was that the cemetery up by [unclear] or up on the hill?

RA: Up on the hill by the old saw mill. They take them up there, I was told, and bury them for a year or two until nothing left and then go dig the bones up and then ship them to China. I was up there hunting my horse one day I walked right through the middle of

it and I could see two or three places where they had dug them back out. I don't know if any of them are left there or not. That was a little later. That place ought to be protected a little, probably.

JW: Can you tell me precisely where this is located?

RA: No, Not precisely. Do you know where Byron Haverly's [name is unclear] shop is?

JW: No, but that's fine, just tell us about where it is. [Laughing]

UP: It's located where Blue Mountain Mills Hardware.

RA: You know where the old sawmill was down there. It had been up the hill to the south, across the highway from the sawmill, and it was probably four or five hundred yards up that hill. They had buried quite a few chinamen there over the years. When I went through hunting that horse again, you could see two or three holes where they hadn't filled them back in. It would be hard...I can't walk good, but I think I could find it, I think there is a road pretty close to it. That's about all I could tell you about it, really.

JW: That is very helpful. That is something we need to look into.

RA: You can see about where it was from Iron Wood Estates. You can look across there and see about—you can't pick out anything from there.

JW: There are no markers of any kind?

RA: Now, there might be if you got up there again.

UP: He's talking about looking across the valley [unclear]

RA: But, [unclear name] Oliver's house is up there above Byron Haverly's and then it's down east...I couldn't tell you...maybe a quarter of a mile, and there are other houses farther down. They just haven't got in there to build yet...they will.

JW: Yes, they will. That's true. Do you remember anything about the opening of the Museum when the store was reopened again? It was closed down for many, many years and—

RA: You mean when it was opened as a museum?

JW: Yes.

RA: I don't really remember when, I remember them talking about it quite a lot.

JW: Did you see any of the museum when it was reopened?

RA: No, I think Gordon Glass was running it then.

JW: Do you know anything about him?

RA: Yes, Nothing I want to say. [Both laughing]

JW: Okay.

RA: He sold Chevrolets and I always drove Fords.

JW: Oh...I see...okay. [Both laughing] Do you know about any items from the store or any souvenirs from the store, when the store opened up did people take any items from the store?

RA: I've got no idea.

JW: Do you know anybody who's got any of those, or any old photographs?

RA: Not that I know of. The paper is about all I know of. I have got an item out here my granddaughter found, about three months ago, down here in the creek, though. It's a Chinese pick. Been laying there in the ground for a hundred years, I suppose. You can tell it's only about twelve—

UP: [unclear]

RA: Yes, it's on the railing there. It had a crust of rust on it, thick rust. You can tell it is not American made. There's no handles anywhere in the country, I've been trying to find a handle that will fit it.

JW: Oh, [looking at the pick] why don't you hold it up there so the camera can take a picture of it.

RA: It's just a little pick, you can see. American picks, you know, are longer and they have a curl to them, had a lot bigger handle hole. I kind of...kind of like that little pick, been laying out there that many years. My granddaughter—

JW: Where did she find this?

RA: It was in the ground...just that part sticking up...one end of it. It was right down here in the bottom of this little creek that goes by. I am going to find a handle or make one for it...hang it on the wall. The reason I'm sure it's Chinese, they didn't make toys for kids those days like that, I don't think. I don't recall any of them. It's too small for what a regular miner would use. I can't see any markings on it of any kind and I don't really want to grind on it.

JW: You would just want to leave it as it is. That's really nice.

RA: No telling what happened to the china man. He might have been down there too, I don't know. [Both laughing]

JW: It's a possibility. Is there anything else you would like to tell me about Kam Wah Chung, or the Chinese community, or Doc Hay?

RA: Not really much that I can remember about them.

UP: Your dad knew them pretty well?

RA: Oh, yes.

JW: Did he tell you stories about them?

RA: Yes, but I can't remember them...been too long ago.

JW: You said that, you thought Doc Hay was a nice guy.

RA: I thought he was, yes.

JW: What made you think that? Why did you feel—

RA: Probably, because he gave me candy and I would get firecrackers there. Of course, they were legal in those days, you know. White boy would go in there and he was the same as everybody else, as far as I knew. I knew Bob Wah and his two sons, Eddie and I think the other one was Henry. One of them died pretty young. I don't know what happened to him. I don't know if Eddie Wah is still alive or not.

JW: Yes, he is.

RA: He is? Where's he at?

JW: I have a phone number here for him. He's in Portland and apparently he still practices dentistry one day a week.

RA: I'll be darned.

UP: Did anybody come into his office, when he was county Judge, about the Chinese?

RA: Into dad's office?

UP: Yes.

RA: I don't really know.

UP: He didn't mention?

RA: No. Dad always thought they was pretty good people, most of them too.

JW: Do you remember anything he said about them that indicated that he thought they were good people?

RA: No, I sure can't tell you that. Dad liked most everybody though.

JW: Oh, did he?

RA: He didn't see anything wrong with race. He liked Indians too. Like I said, I don't know an awful lot about Chinese.[Laughing]

JW: But, you have personal memories of going in and seeing Doc Hay, and that is very special.

RA: I wish I could remember about what kind of cars that Lung On sold, but I don't. I think it must have been Oldsmobile, or something like that, I'm not sure. It's a shame that you couldn't have been here when [unclear] Ogalvie was still here, he would have known it all.

JW: Would he? Maybe we will find some other folks—

UP: You've got Evelyn's name there.

JW: Yes, we do.

RA: Yes, but she wasn't around that much.

JW: Anything else that you want to—

RA: I don't think so. I can't think of it.

JW: Thank you. That's very good. Those are some interesting things.